(d) The company proposes to dig bore-wells and surface-wells to improve the production of salt. It has also approached the Government of Rajasthan for maintaining free flow of water to the lake.

Crisis of CAS

78. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the ongoing crisis over CAS and lack of proper information regarding the rate to be charged for pay channels by the cable operators and the provision of set top box, Government have since kept implementation of CAS in abeyance;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to hold discussions with the consumer activists and cable operators so as to arrive at an amicable settlement for implementation of CAS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) After monitoring the preparedness of stakeholders to introduce addressability and after extensive discussions with various stakeholders, namely Broadcasters, Multi System Operators, Cable Operators, Consumer Groups, etc., it has been decided to rollout the CAS in a zonal phased manner, in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and in the Chennai Metropolitan area, w.e.f. 1.9.2003. The notification issued on 10th July, 2003 to this effect is available in the Ministry's website, www.mib.nic.in. The intervening period will be utilized to step up preparedness for smooth roll out of CAS and for educating the subscribers.

Long term action plan for development of film industry

79. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long term action plan for all round development of the film industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States apart from developing infrastructure are also giving various incentives to the film industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) According to the Constitution of India 'Cinema' is a State subject, except 'certification of films' which is on the Union List. However, the Central Government has taken several supportive measures for the overall development of the film industry. Some of these measures are given below:—

- In order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, a Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Ministry of Finance whereunder 'entertainment industry, including films' has been specified as an approved activity for extending loans under the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Act. The Reserve Bank of India has also evolved guidelines to enable commercial banks to fund film production.
- The Foreign Direct Investment regime for films has been further liberalized in order to facilitate access to additional capital by the film industry.
- A plan scheme has been included in the 10th Five Year Plan, to participate in film markets in India and abroad with a view to providing exposure to Indian films in the global market.
- Several steps have been taken to mitigate the menace of audio and video piracy like a recommendation by the Committee for development of the entertainment sector set up to suggest the policy framework both at the Centre and in the States, to fix a ceiling for entertainment tax at 60%, organization of training courses and removal of excise duty on CDs.
- Good cinema is encouraged through the medium of National Film Awards.
- In 2002 alongwith the International Film Festival of India, a Film

Bazaar has been initiated by the Government to provide a platform for interaction between Indian Film Industry and international buyers and sellers.

- In the Budget of 2002-03 a five-year tax break has been given to multiplexes set up outside Municipal limits.
- The best cinema in any year is selected as part of the 'Indian Panorama'. These films are especially shown to audiences on the festival circuit in order to create, as well as cater to, a taste for Indian cinema.
- Students are trained to be film professionals in the Film and Television Institutes, Kolkata and Pune.
- The National Film Development Corporation and the Children's Film Society of India finance production of film especially by new film makers.
- Three International Film Festivals are organized by the Government of India to promote cinema.

(c) and (d) Since 'cinema' is a State subject, detailed information in this regard is not maintained Centrally. However, it is understood that various State Governments offer incentives to their local film industry in the nature of subsidies, loans of entertainment tax exemptions.

Decision on CAS

80. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conditional Access System is going to harm the end-users and benefit the cable operators; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to protect interests of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Implementation of Conditional Access System is in the interest